

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-21 and 29-32 are pending.

Claims 1, 7, 14, 15, 18-21, and 30-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for allegedly being unpatentable by Koto et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,671,376.

Claims 2-6, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Koto et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,671,376 in view of Fujinami et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,192,189.

Claims 8-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Koto in view of Copeland et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,659,613.

Claims 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Koto et al. in view of Yamagata et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,956,460.

Claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Koto et al. in view of Hashimoto, U.S. Patent No. 6,826,289.

The present invention as recited in claim 1 sets forth an apparatus for playing back data stored on an information recording medium such as an optical disk to produce data that is to be played back. The apparatus includes “a reproduction processing circuit” configured to produce the data. A subset of the data is stored in “a data store.” A “detecting circuit” produces a detection result based on a watermark contained in the stored subset. A “control circuit” selectively outputs the data based on the detection result.

Koto et al. was cited in Fig. 1 and Fig. 7 in support of the Section 102 rejections. Fig. 1 of Koto et al. shows an entire coding and decoding system. Element 100A is a video coding system, and element 200A is a video decoding system. The claims as originally filed and subsequently amended have consistently been directed to a playback system. The independent claims as currently amended more clearly set forth that the present invention is directed to a playback system.

As to independent claim 1, Koto et al. do not show a playback apparatus for playing back data stored on an information recording medium. Koto et al. do not show that the apparatus includes a “reproduction processing circuit”, or a “data store configured to receive a

subset of the data” produced by the reproduction processing circuit. Koto et al. do not show that the apparatus includes “a detecting circuit coupled to the data store and configured to ... produce a detection result, the detection result being based on [a] watermark” in the data, or a “a control circuit configured to selectively output the data based on the detection result.” See also independent claim 18.

As to independent claim 19, Koto et al. do not show a method for accessing data stored on an information recording medium. Koto et al. do not show that the method includes “receiving the data from the information recording medium” and “producing a detection result by processing [the] data.” Koto et al. do not show that the method includes “selectively outputting the data based on the detection result.”

As to independent claim 21, Koto et al. do not show a playback apparatus for playing back data, which includes “first means for providing the data from an information recording medium”, “means for producing a detection result” from a subset of the data, and “means, operatively coupled to the third means, for outputting the data based on the detection result.”

As to independent claim 29, the examiner relied on Koto et al. and Hashimoto et al. However, neither reference shows or suggests an apparatus for playing back data having “a reproduction processing circuit configured to receive information stored on the information recording medium to reproduce the data including the watermark,” “a detecting circuit configured to detect the watermark,” or a “reproduction control circuit configured to control the reproduction of the data, depending upon a result of the detection of the watermark by the detecting circuit.”

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Examination [RCE] under 37 CFR 1.114

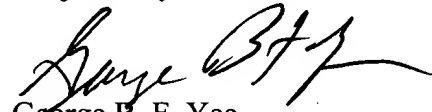
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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